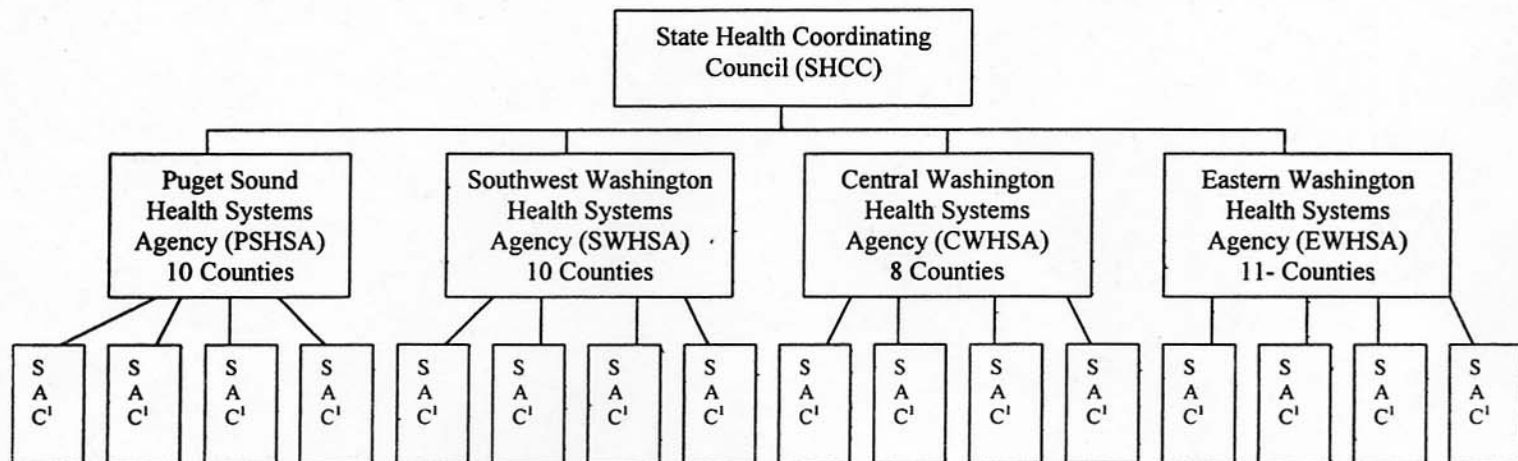


Certificate of need was authorized in Washington by statute in 1971. Shortly thereafter the federal government passed the national health planning act of 1974 (PL 93-641). With passage of this federal law in-conjunction with the state law, health planning became a priority of government and much work and effort was expended to create elaborate processes for planned and orderly development of a comprehensive health care delivery systems.

Regional health care planning networks comprised of State and local governments and private sector representatives, worked together to develop the State Health Plan.



This plan established general goals, objectives and outcomes expected from planning efforts. Part of the planning focused on developing standards used for evaluating projects subject to Certificate of Need review. These networks were an integral part of the state's evaluation process of the growing health care system. In 1984 congress did not reauthorize the national health planning act.

As a result of the vanishing federal support for planning the development of health care facilities and services, Washington was left struggling with under resourced planning networks. Shortly the networks supporting the CoN program evaluation and decision process became a thing of the past. Since then the CoN program's efforts have focused on evaluating applications dealing with current need for facilities or services in communities. These evaluations include a prospective evaluation including the impact on existing facilities and services the proposed project will have. Basically this is a snapshot in time evaluation process.

¹SAC-Sub-area Advisory Council comprised of local citizens (consumers, providers, local business owners, etc